

# Stanford speaker

## Cuba invasion plan

## Nixon's, talk charges

By HEDY BOISSEVAIN



PROF. STANLEY J. STEIN

Blame for the "humiliating blunder" of the Cuban invasion of 1961 spatters both sides of the political fence—former Vice President Richard Nixon as the "secret architect" of the invasion plan, and President John Kennedy for following through a policy which violated both American principles and treaty obligations while withholding information from the American public.

Stanley J. Stein, professor of history at Princeton University and a visiting professor this summer at Stanford University, made these charges Tuesday night at Stanford in an hour-and-a-half analysis of the ill-fated invasion of April 17, 1961.

A secret memorandum, still unpublished, written by Nixon after Premier Fidel Castro in April, 1959, laid out the original invasion policy, according to Professor Stein.

### GUATEMALAN BASES

Preparations were carried out at Guatemala bases by the Central Intelligence Agency, which also provided \$45 million for the project, Prof. Stein said, while Cuban radio carried reports on the plan but news was kept from Americans. The Saturday Evening Post withdrew, on government request, an article six weeks before the actual invasion, showing Cubans training with American weapons, Prof. Stein charged. After the invasion fiasco the New York Times published an editorial on "The Right Not To Be Lied To."

The policies and preparation for the invasion were reviewed by military chiefs, cabinet members, and others in 1962, after Kennedy was in office, with the only opposition voiced by Sen. Fulbright of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, Prof. Stein said.

In considering whether to pursue the Cuban invasion policy, Kennedy had two historical choices, the Big Stick policy of Theodore Roosevelt or the Good Neighbor policy of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Kennedy chose to reverse the Good Neighbor policy and return to the Big Stick, Prof. Stein charged.

When on April 18 Castro's planes commanded the air over the beachhead at the Bay of Pigs, Kennedy himself refused to involve American forces and denied the Cuban invaders air support from the U.S. aircraft carriers in the Caribbean, according to Prof. Stein.

Nixon's fateful conversation with Castro came in April, 1959, when the Cuban premier accepted an invitation to address the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington, Prof. Stein said.

According to Prof. Stein, Nixon wrote that Castro was either naive or under Communist discipline, and that the United States should handle him accordingly. Though Castro came to Washington accompanied by his leading economic advisors, no offers of aid were made, according to Prof. Stein.

### REFORMS FOLLOW

It was the following month that saw the beginning of Castro's pro-

gram of agrarian reform, including seizure of American property. He also began buying Russian oil and took over management of the refineries. This was followed by seizure of about \$2 billion in sugar refineries, utili-

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